

Board of Governors Report to Senate

FOR INFORMATION

Presented by:	Corinna Stevenson, Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors
Date of Meeting:	October 26, 2024
Subject:	Board of Governors Report to Senate

Background:

It is a longstanding tradition for the Senate-elected member of the Board of Governors to provide a report to the Senate on the Board's activities. This practice ensures that Senate members are kept informed about the current engagements and upcoming agenda items of the Board of Governors. Maintaining this communication is essential for linking all governing bodies and promoting good governance at USask.

Board Composition:

The Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of the university's property, revenues and financial affairs.

The Board meets approximately six times a year and consists of eleven members:

- President Peter Stoicheff
- Chancellor Grit McCreath
- Five members appointed by the government - Shelley Brown, Grant Devine, Keith Martell, Marty Seymour and Hern McFaull
- Two Senate elected members - Mike Marsh and Corinna Stevenson
- Faculty member - Nadeem Jamali
- Student member – Krunal Chavda, USSU President

Current Committee Membership:

Audit and Finance:

Keith Martell (Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Mike Marsh, Krunal Chavda, Nadeem Jamali, Shelley Brown

Land and Facilities:

Marty Seymour (Chair), Grant Devine, Nadeem Jamali, Herb McFaull, Mike Marsh, Krunal Chavda, Shelley Brown

Human Resources:

Herb McFaull (Chair), Corinna Stevenson, Grant Devine, Grit McCreath, Peter Stoicheff, Shelley Brown

Governance and Executive:

Keith Martell (Chair), Peter Stoicheff, Herb McFaull, Marty Seymour, Shelley Brown

Please note that public minutes from the board meetings are posted regularly on the [Governance Office website](#). The most recent minutes published are from June 2024 meeting.

Board Highlights:

Since the April 2024 Senate meeting, the Board of Governors has convened twice: on June 24-25 and July 24. My term as a Senate-elected member began on July 1, 2024, and I attended my first board meeting in July.

Honorable Colleen Young, the Minister of Advanced Education along with Michelle Lang, Chief of Staff joined the board at the June meeting for an opportunity to meet and continue the strong relationship USask and the ministry have built by working together on the priorities for the province and the university.

The president provided highlights from the spring convocation and spoke about the significant move upward in university rankings and the increase in research funding for graduate students that came from the recent federal budget announcement. He also provided an update on the visa restrictions for international students and what that means for USask.

During the July board meeting, the primary focus was on approving several key financial documents, including the USask audited year-end financial statements, the 2023-24 annual financial report, the defined pension plan financial statement, and the defined contribution pension plan financial statement. Additionally, the board ratified the USFA Collective Agreement.

Current Focus:

The process for selecting the next President of the University of Saskatchewan is under way. The Board of Governors plays a crucial role in selecting a university president. The Board sets the criteria and guidelines for the selection process, ensuring that the candidates meet the university's needs and strategic goals. After the selection committee makes its recommendation, the Board of Governors reviews and approves the final candidate. Once appointed, the Board continues to monitor and evaluate the president's performance, providing guidance and support as needed. This process ensures that the university's leadership aligns with its mission and values, fostering a stable and effective administration.

The selection of a university President is a critical process that requires a well-rounded and diverse search committee. According to current search procedures, the committee will include the following representatives:

- **Chair:** Chair of the Board
- **Two Board Members:** Selected by the Board
- **One Senate Member:** Selected by the Senate Nominations Committee
- **Two Deans or Executive Directors:** Appointed by the Deans
- **Four GAA Members:** Selected by the Council
- **Two Students:** One President of the USSU and one President of the GSA

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my first Board of Governors report to Senate as Senate-elected member of the Board. I look forward to engaging with this group at the next meeting in April 2025.

Sincerely,
Corinna Stevenson